

REMARKS

This Amendment is fully responsive to the final Office Action dated November 10, 2009, issued in connection with the above-identified application. Claims 14, 17-20 and 23-26 are pending in the present application. With this Amendment, claims 14, 20, 25 and 26 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments made to the claims. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. Examiner Interview

The Applicants thank Examiner Garland for granting the telephone interview with the Applicants' representative, which was conducted on February 3, 2010. During the interview, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, was discussed in detail. An Appendix of proposed claim changes was provided to the Examiner. It was agreed that the claims would be amended to replace the term "completed" with the term "performed." Additionally, the Examiner also suggested that the last two limitations of the independent claims be clarified.

At the conclusion of the interview, the Examiner indicated the proposed claim amendments would likely overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, but that further consideration of the claim amendments would be necessary (i.e., upon the filing of a response to the Office Action) before reaching a final determination regarding the allowability of the claims.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112

In the Office Action, claims 14, 17-20 and 23-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. The Applicants have amended independent claims 14, 20, 25 and 26 in order to address the above rejection. The Amendments to independent claims 14, 20, 25 and 26 are consistent with the amendments suggested during the interview with the Examiner on February 3, 2010.

For example, independent claim 14 (as amended) recites the following:

"[a]n apparatus control system comprising an apparatus which requires a plurality of different settings, an apparatus controlling device for controlling the apparatus, and a server which is communicatively connected to the apparatus controlling device via a network, wherein

said apparatus controlling device includes:

an apparatus setting section for accepting an input by a first operator, and performing a setting, the setting being at least one of a setting on a connection between said apparatus and said apparatus controlling device, and a confirmation on an operation of said apparatus including a test run of said apparatus using said apparatus controlling device;

a network setting section for accepting an input by a second operator different from the first operator, and performing a setting on a connection between said apparatus controlling device and said server;

a setting status monitoring section for monitoring an apparatus setting status representing whether the setting by said apparatus setting section has been performed, and a network setting status representing whether the setting by said network setting section has been performed; and

a setting status display section for displaying the apparatus setting status and the network setting status detected by said setting status monitoring section; and

a setting status information transmitting section for transmitting, to said server, information relating to the apparatus setting status and the network setting status monitored by said setting status monitoring section,

wherein said server includes a setting status information receiving section for receiving the information relating to the apparatus setting status and the network setting status transmitted by said setting status information transmitting section,

said setting status monitoring section stores the information relating to the apparatus setting status and the network setting status,

said setting status information transmitting section judges whether the setting by said network setting section has been performed, and in the case where it is judged that the setting by said network setting section has been performed, the setting status information transmitting section transmits, to the server, the information relating to the apparatus setting status and the network setting status stored in said setting status monitoring section, and

said setting status information transmitting section judges whether the setting by said

apparatus setting section has been performed, and in the case where it is judged that the setting by said apparatus setting section has been performed, said setting status information transmitting section transmits, to said server, the information relating to the apparatus setting status and the network setting status stored in said setting status monitoring section.”

The features emphasized above in independent claim 14 are similarly recited in independent claims 20, 25 and 26 (as amended).

As amended, the claims now consistently use the term “performed.” That is, the term “completed” has been removed from the claims. Additionally, the Examiner (during the interview) stated that there was confusion created in the last two limitations of the independent claims because of the phrases “after the setting by said apparatus setting section has been completed” and “after the setting by said network setting section has been completed.” Accordingly, the two phrases noted above have been removed from the claims.

Based on the above, withdrawal of the rejection to claims 14, 17-20 and 23-26 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is now respectfully requested.

No prior art rejections were indicated in the Office Action.

III. Conclusion

In light of the above, the Applicants respectfully submit that all the pending claims are patentable over the prior art of record. The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections presented in the outstanding Office Action, and pass the present application to issue.

The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone to address any remaining issues in the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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